

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-15 were pending in this application when last examined. Claims 1-9, 11-13 and 15 are currently amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and original claims as filed. No new matter has been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the time and consideration provided by Examiner Kee to Applicants' representative during the telephone discussions on September 22 and 27, 2010. The substance of the discussions is included in part in the present Office Action. During the discussions, claim amendments were proposed and agreed upon. Those amendments are incorporated in this response.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 112

At page 2, item 2, the Office rejects claims 1-9 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action contends that it is not clear how claim 1 can be directed to a "locking device for a screw coupling" while featuring structural limitations that are dependent on components of the screw coupling. The Office Action takes the position that the claims should be directed to a locking device including a screw coupling.

As discussed with the Examiner, amended claims 1-9, 11-12 and 15 are directed to a "screw coupling including a locking device." Also, amended claim 13 is directed to a pipe coupling that includes structural features in combination with a locking device. Thus, each of present claims 1-9 and 11-15 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37
C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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